

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Please note that claims 6-10 were added in a Preliminary Amendment filed July 8, 2003, and therefore, claims 1-10 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and Figs. 6A-6C, 7A and 7B are corrected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to Figs. 6A-6C, 7A and 7B. Figs. 6A-6C, 7A and 7B have been labeled as "related art" to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy Formal Matters

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Office Action considers a phrase in claim 1 to be indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Murai (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,113). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither APA nor Murai disclose or suggest core spacing mechanisms which are formed on its inner surfaces, and which control a position of a magnetic core, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action admits that APA does not disclose or suggest this feature. However, the Office Action asserts that Murai discloses the feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Murai instead discloses a transformer configured to reduce a size of a case body in which the transformer is accommodated (see, for example, the Abstract). To achieve this, secondary terminals (terminal portions) 10 of a secondary bobbin 5 are projected in a same direction as primary terminals 2a of a primary bobbin 3 thereby reducing the overall size of the case body (see for example, col. 6, lines 58-64). To provide for the primary terminals 2a and secondary terminals 10 to project in the same direction, the primary bobbin 3 has ribs 7 on its inner surface in a longitudinal direction so as to hold the secondary bobbin 5 with a secondary coil wound therearound. Here, the ribs 7 of Murai only work as a retainer (see for example, col. 5, lines 50-62).

Murai does not contemplate a bobbin to be made of a heat resistant plastic resin which may suffer a large dimensional change due to temperature or humidity change, but is resistant to heat deformation in consideration that the bobbin, with a magnet wire wound therearound, undergoes a varnish impregnation treatment together with a magnetic core consisting of two core sections. Therefore, Murai does not disclose or suggest a core housing portion of a bobbin having core spacing mechanisms which are formed on its inner surfaces, and which prevent the magnetic core from making surface contact with the inner surfaces of the core house portion whereby even if the bobbin, specifically the core housing portion thereof, suffers the aforementioned dimensional change during the varnish impregnation treatment, the two core sections constituting the magnetic core can keep their respective original positions thus maintaining an original gap therebetween, which results in that magnetic reluctance remains unchanged, and inductance of a transformer or choke coil can be kept constant.

Therefore, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-10 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well

as for the features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Replacement Sheets

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